



Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

National Quality and Patient Safety

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

22/09/2025

Mr Padraig Rice,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 46797/25: To ask the Minister for Health the reason the external retrospective review of children who may have undergone unnecessary hip surgeries has been delayed; if the HSE is still committed to a six month timeframe for the process; the status of the shortlisting and recruitment process for the independent panel; to confirm that the panel will be convened in September; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig Rice

Dear Mr Rice,

The HSE has commissioned an External Expert Review and is finalising the recruitment of international experts with the necessary academic and clinical credentials. Shortlisting is complete and invitations are being issued following an international call. The External Expert Review Panel is expected to convene by the end of September 2025.

The review is currently in the preparatory phase, which includes convening the panel, engaging with patient and family advocates, developing Terms of Reference, designing a secure case management system, and ensuring legal and GDPR compliance for the involvement of international experts.

The EEP will review children's medical files including images. It does not involve a clinic appointment or physical examination of the child. The individual case reviews will commence no later than January 2026 and experts have advised that it will take twelve months for the EEP to review the volume of cases. This timeline reflects the complexity of the work and the need for a rigorous and comprehensive approach. The HSE is committed to supporting this process to ensure it proceeds efficiently and expeditiously.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Orla Healy

National Clinical Lead, Quality & Patient Safety

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